

1 WHEREAS, In 1982 the General Assembly of Virginia enacted Chapter 116,
2 which sought to expand the authority of the Commission so that, in addition to license
3 fees, it could levy oyster repletion fees and regulate all dredging of oysters, not just
4 dredging with handscrapes; and

5 WHEREAS, This 1982, Virginia legislation has not become effective because
6 similar legislation has not yet been enacted in Maryland; and

7 WHEREAS, On the advice of its Oyster Advisory Committee, a panel of citizens
8 and fishing industry representatives, the Commission recently determined that the
9 regulation of power dredging and the levy of repletion fees would be useful
10 management tools, particularly during this time of critically low oyster harvests, and
11 thus, Maryland's assent to this broader authorization is necessary; now, therefore,

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article - Natural Resources**

15 4-307.

16 The Potomac River Fisheries Commission shall have the power to make, adopt,
17 and publish such rules and regulations as may be necessary or desirable for
18 authorizing and regulating the dredging of oysters [with handscrapes] in areas of the
19 Potomac River within its geographical jurisdiction and may levy license AND
20 REPLETION fees for same.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of
22 Legislative Services shall notify the appropriate officials of the Commonwealth of
23 Virginia of the enactment of this Act; and that the Governor of the State of Maryland
24 shall issue a proclamation declaring this Act valid and effective and shall forward a
25 copy of the proclamation to the Executive Director of the Department of Legislative
26 Services.

27 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 2 of
28 this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2003.